



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 163

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

No. 143

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Ross).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 6, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DENNIS A. ROSS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
Dear Lord, thank You for giving us another day.

These are energized days when Americans are being challenged to consider who we are as a people. Please bless all our citizens—and those who would be citizens—with generosity and discernment, that the national discourse would be a wonder for the world to see, and not a time of ever-widening divisions.

For the Members of this people's House, we ask a surfeit of wisdom and patience that they might work together, and through the differences that are all too familiar to a new vision of those qualities that might bring us together as one people.

Finally, we ask Your blessing of the people of Texas, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, California, Oregon, Washington, and Montana, all who suffer the ravages of extreme natural disasters. Comfort them, and strengthen those who labor to bring relief to their hardships.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SIREs led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

LET'S PASS BILL TO HELP DREAMERS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as early as March 6, 2018, hundreds of thousands of young immigrants, who are as American as you, could be forced to leave our great country.

The United States is their home, and the DACA program has afforded these DREAMers the opportunity to come out of the shadows, work legally, and pursue their educational goals. They are buying homes, creating businesses, working in our schools and hospitals, and contributing to our economy. Simply put, they are active members of our community.

Mr. Speaker, Congress can save these young Americans from deportations. I have introduced, along with my friend, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, legislation that will ensure DREAMers can continue to fully participate in the American way of life and one day even become proud American citizens. The love for this country is already embedded in their hearts.

There are other alternatives that we can pass, such as the RAC Act, sponsored by my good friend and Florida colleague, Congressman CURBELO; and the BRIDGE Act, sponsored by my friend, Congressman COFFMAN, that gives DREAMers a chance to continue to build their future.

Congress has less than 6 months to act. The clock is ticking, Mr. Speaker. Let's do what is right and vote on these bills.

TERMINATION OF DACA

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the cruel and indefensible termination of the DACA program.

Since its launch in 2012, DACA has helped hundreds of thousands of young people come out of the shadows without the fear of being separated from

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H6657

their loved ones and sent away from the only country they call home. Many of these children came as infants, growing up in the same playgrounds, schools, and neighborhoods as our own kids.

The President's decision targets millions of young people who contribute to our society, economy, and national identity every day. In New Jersey alone, there are over 22,000 DACA recipients who pay \$66 million in State and local taxes every year.

The emotional and economic impact of their deportation will be devastating, and New Jersey could lose \$1.58 billion annually in GDP.

America was built on the hard work of immigrants and our diversity is part of the foundation of our Nation.

It is long past due for Congress to step up and protect the millions of families that will be torn apart because of this inhumane decision. We must protect DACA and pass legislation to fix our broken immigration system.

RECOGNIZING MINNESOTA'S FEMALE TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR BY GATORADE

(Mr. EMMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding athlete from my district who was recently named Minnesota's Female Track and Field Athlete of the Year by Gatorade.

Anna Keefer, a 2017 graduate of St. Michael-Albertville High School, was chosen for this award due to her impressive ability on the track and the excellence she exudes in every aspect of her life.

Anna is a sprinter and jumper. Her accolades include three individual State titles at the Minnesota State High School League AA State Championship meet. She holds the all-time State record in the long jump. Anna also helped bring home the track team championship title to St. Michael-Albertville at the 2017 State meet.

In addition to recognizing Anna with this award, Gatorade also donated a \$1,000 grant in Anna's name to a non-profit of her choice. It gave the grant to the STMA Stallions, a local Special Olympics team, because of her friendships with some of the members on the team.

Anna is attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this fall and plans to compete on the track team. We can't wait to see what she accomplishes next.

Anna, all of us in Minnesota are so proud of you, and we wish you all the best in your future.

RETURN TO CHAOS

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we return to Capitol Hill amidst chaos—wildfires in the West, choking smoke in my community, the cruelty of 800,000 young people having their lives turned upside down unnecessarily by Trump yesterday, and we are dancing with the debt ceiling chaos with the world economy. All are made unnecessarily worse. Even Harvey was predictable due to government action and inaction.

Congress should stop pretending these things are beyond our control. A majority of Congress would treat young DREAMers, fairly if given a right to vote for it on the floor of the House.

We should fund disaster prevention, including forest fires, and stop subsidizing more floods, and not play unnecessary games with the world economy, pretending we won't pay for money we have already spent.

In the end, we will probably spend the next 3 weeks setting up the next crisis later in the year.

Isn't it time that Congress stop playing the victim and take charge?

RECOGNIZING CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding performance of Pennsylvania's critical access hospitals.

Before I was elected to serve in the House of Representatives, I spent nearly 30 years in the healthcare field. I am most proud to see Pennsylvania recognized in the top 10 States by the Health Resources and Services Administration for quality performance.

With the help of funding from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Pennsylvania's critical access hospitals are able to invest in quality improvement projects and new technical assistance resources to better care for their patients.

Pennsylvania is home to 15 critical access hospitals that provide service to the most rural areas in our State. Since 1991, the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health has dedicated its efforts to ensure that these hospitals constantly improve the quality of care they provide to their patients.

Rural hospitals are critically important to our communities. They may be limited in resources, but they are committed to providing the best care possible to patients.

I am proud of our Pennsylvania critical access hospitals, and I congratulate them on this national recognition.

PROTECT DACA

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the DACA program.

Since the announcement of the end of this important program, I have heard from countless DREAMers who, in a word, are terrified. These are young people who are brought to our country as children and are now living, studying, and working in our communities.

One constituent's story, in particular, has stayed with me. This young woman was brought to our country at the age of 5. America is the only home she has ever known.

She was raised in San Diego, educated in San Diego, and now works in San Diego helping other immigrants transition more seamlessly into our society.

The administration's decision to end DACA is a broken promise to her, the 40,000 DREAMers in San Diego, and the 800,000 DREAMers across the country.

But even in the face of this betrayal, she called on us to "act with love and lead with inclusion."

With this call to action in mind, I hope my colleagues commit to protecting the DACA program and DREAMers.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT STEVE PEREZ

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as Hurricane Harvey rampaged across Texas, the heavens opened up and 50 inches of rain hammered down on the Houston area.

After 2 days of hard rain, on August 27, 60-year-old Houston Police Officer Sergeant Steve Perez got up, as he does every morning, put on the badge, the shield over his heart, and began to drive to work to help rescue flood victims. It was dangerous. The floodwaters were high and constantly rising. People's homes and businesses were flooding. Perez's wife even asked him not to go that day. But, Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Perez knew the people of Houston were counting on him.

He made a wrong turn when he was headed to work, fighting the flooded streets. Because of that, the 34-year veteran of the force, Sergeant Perez, died in the floodwaters. He gave his life for the thin blue line, the line that protects and serves the rest of us.

Officers like Sergeant Perez are just a cut above the rest of us. They willingly put themselves into harm's way for their communities, and their motto is to protect and to serve.

Houston will remember Texas lawman Sergeant Perez as one of their own, putting his life on the line during one of the worst natural disasters in Texas history.

Next week, as hundreds of officers from all over the State of Texas and other States stand in silence, taps will be played for the end of watch for Sergeant Perez. Sergeant Perez is one of the rare breed—the Texas breed of law officers that sacrifice for the rest of us.